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Message Text

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41
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 AGRE-00 OES-06

HEW-04 L-03 /068 W
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R 081243Z SEP 76
FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1794
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2447

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EEC, ETRD
SUBJECT: US-EC WINE

REF: (A) STATE 214790, (B) STATE 215593, (C) EC BRUSSELS 7630,
(D) EC BRUSSELS 8293, (E) STATE 216938

1. ON SEPTEMBER 7, MISSION OFFICER MET WITH EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS TULLY, (DG)I), CAO (DG I), GOURDON (DG VI), REICHARDT (DG VI), DE PASCALE (DG VI, AND LENG (EC DEL. WASHINGTON) TO GO OVER RECENT BATF PROPOSED CERTIFICATION OF U.S. WINE IMPORTS (REFS. A AND B) AND TO DISCUSS THE 2-LITER PROBLEM AFFECTING U.S. EXEMPTION FROM THE EC CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.

2. U.S. CERTIFICATION: EC OFFICIALS HAD THE FOLLOWING INITIAL QUESTIONS:
A. WHAT ARE THE OENOLOGICAL PRACTICES PROHIBITED BY U.S. REGULATIONS?
B. WHAT ARE THE METHODS OF ANALYSIS THAT THE U.S. WOULD ACCEPT; E.G., THOSE USED BY EC COUNTRIES CONFORM TO OIV GUIDE-
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LINES (OFFICE INTERNATIONALE DE LA VIGNE ET DU VIN)?

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C. WHAT DOES THE TERM "TOTAL SOLIDS" MEAN?
D. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE TERM "FIXED ACID?" EC PRACTICE
IS TO DEAL IN TERMS OF "TOTAL ACID" AND "VOLATILE ACID."
E. WHAT ARE THE SUBSTANCES THAT THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
WOULD CONSIDER AS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH?
F. WHY IS TOTAL SULFUR DIOXIDE CONTENT REQUESTED---THIS
DECREASES OVER TIME IN STILL WINES.
G. WOULD THE UNITED STATES EXEMPT EC WINERIES FROM THE
CERTIFICATE AS A RESULT OF ON-SITE INSPECTION BY U.S. OFFICIALS?
IF SO, COMMISSION OFFICIALS WONDERED WHETHER MEMBER STATES
MIGHT OBJECT TO ON-SITE INSPECTION BY USG OFFICIALS.
H. EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAID PRIVATELY THEY WERE PLEASED
THAT THE USG WANTED ALL COLORS USED IN PRODUCING THE WINE
TO BE LISTED; THEY HAVE BEEN URGING MEMBER STATES TO DO THIS.

3. IN GENERAL, EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS THOUGHT THAT THE EC
DOCUMENT THAT MUST ACCOMPANY EC WINES CIRCULATING THROUGHOUT
THE COMMUNITY COULD SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR THE CERTIFICATE
ENVISAGED UNDER THE U.S. PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, THIS DOCUMENT IS
ONLY REQUIRED SO FAR FOR STILL WINE, LIQUEUR WINE, SEMI-SPARKLING
WINE, SPARKLING WINE, GRAPE JUICE AND GRAPE MUST (THAT IS,
IT WOULD NOT COVER VERMOUTHS FOR EXAMPLE).

4. THEY ALSO FELT THAT U.S. STANDARDS APPEARED TO BE FLEXIBLE
ENOUGH FOR THEM TO COMPLY WITH BUT THAT THEY WOULD HAVE THEIR
EXPERTS CONTINUE TO STUDY THE PROPOSAL CAREFULLY.

5. LENG AND REICHARDT EXPRESSED THEIR SURPRISE THAT TREASURY
HAD PUBLISHED THIS PROPOSAL SO SHORTLY AFTER THE US-EC
CONSULTATIONS WITH NO ADVANCE NOTICE. LENG WAS INTERESTED IN
KNOWING WHAT RELATIONSHIP THIS ACTION HAD WITH FDA EFFORTS TO
TIGHTEN UP LABELLING STANDARDS FOR WINE (WE EXPLAINED THAT THE
BATF PROPOSAL WAS AIMED AT PROTECTING U.S. CONSUMERS AND ASSURING
THAT IMPORTED WINES MET U.S. STANDARDS).

6. EC CERTIFICATION AND U.S. EXEMPTION. WE ASKED GOURDON WHEN
WOULD BE THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WINE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TO DISCUSS EXTENDING THE LITER SIZE LIMITATION ON THE CERTIFICATE
EXEMPTION (REFS. C, D, AND E). HE SAID THE COMMITTEE WOULD
MEET NEXT WEEK AT WHICH TIME IT WOULD REVIEW, INTER ALIA,
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A COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE EXEMPTION TO INCLDUE CONTAINERS
OF 4 LITERS OR LESS (AS OPPOSED TO THE PRESENT 2 LITER OR LESS
SPECIFICATION) FOR 1 YEAR.

7. ON ANOTHER MATTER, REICHARDT SAID THAT HE WANTED US TO
COMMUNICATE TO WASHINGTON THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTION FOR HANDLING
THE KOSHER WINE PROBLEM (REF. C, PARAGRAPH 10): ALLOWING EC
IMPORTATION OF KOSHER WINE FOR COMMERCIAL CIRCULATION IF THE

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WORD KOSHER IS INDICATED ONLY IN THE HEBREW LANGUAGE.HINTON

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